Staff,

I'm pleased to announce the hiring of Chad Hypes as our next news director. Many of you got a chance to meet Chad when he visited late last month. Chad most recently was news director at the Sinclair station in Medford, Oregon. It was a position he held for eight years.

He's been in the business for about 20 years, serving as a director, photographer and assistant news director at stations in West Virginia before making the move to ND in Oregon.

Chad is hands-on and loves teaching the craft of journalism. Sinclair called on him to lead wildfire coverage outside of his market. His shops also were big on enterprising and investigative work. I expect him to go after stories aggressively and take to TABS very quickly.

Chad gets started on August 15 but may drop in to say hello a couple weeks before that. Please welcome him when you see him. I'll get a reminder out closer to the time of his start.

Curtis Varns
General Manager
The Networks of Mid-Missouri
ABC 17 News